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Twelfth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
29 April - 7 May 1991

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty sixth session of the Commission/ seventeenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers

Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia
9 - 13 May 1991

FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION/SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

M91-342

1. The twenty-fifth session of the Commission/sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning was held at Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 15 to 19 May 1990. The meeting adopted 27 resolutions embracing various socio-economic development issues facing the African region. Some of those resolutions were specifically addressed to the United Nations General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), some were addressed to member States and international organizations and other were addressed to ECA Executive Secretary. The purpose of the present document is, therefore, to provide the meeting with an account of action taken by the ECA secretariat towards the implementation of these resolutions.

Resolution 678 (XXV): United Nations Trust Fund for African Development accumulated interest

2. In this resolution, ECA was requested in operative paragraph 2 to report on the utilization of the funds and the following is an account of the activities undertaken by the secretariat to implement the resolution.

List of projects funded on UNTFAD accumulated interest since April 1990:

(a) JOINT ECA/FAO AGRICULTURE DIVISION (JEFAD)

(i) ATF/002/60 - Prevention of Food-Losses in North Africa
Duration: 90 days starting October 1990
Cost: $US 39,000.34

(ii) ATF/002/58 - Subregional Workshop on Control of Locustand Grasshoppers in West Africa
Duration: 90 days starting September 1990
Cost: $US 42,583.00

(b) INDUSTRY AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS DIVISION (IHSD)

ATF/002/61/A - Subregional Workshop for Middle-level Industrial Managers and Planners on Industrial Planning, Data and Policy Formulation in Central Africa
Duration: 4 months starting November 1990
Cost: $US 36,160.00

(c) NATURAL RESOURCE DIVISION (NRD)

ATF/002/57 - Inventory of Mineral Resources in Africa
Duration: 2 months starting August 1990
Cost: $US 39,622.00

(d) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE DIVISION (TDFD)

ATF/002/59 - International Seminar on Implications of a Single European Market by the year 1992 on Integration and Development of Africa, Kinshasa: 4-8 November 1990
Cost: $US 10,283.00

(e) POLICY AND PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATION OFFICE (PPCO)

ATF/002/056 - Enhancement of the capacity and capability of ECA in policy analysis and programme formulation monitoring and evaluation
Duration: one year starting September 1990
Cost: $US 121,399.00

(f) ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION OFFICE (ECO)

(i) Implementation of the programme of work of the Gisenyi MULPOC including issues relating to the local staff.
Duration: 8 months - Pipeline project
Cost: $US 8,600

(ii) Implementation of resolution No. 7 on lake transport regarding safety of navigation on Lakes Kivu and Tanganyika.

Duration: 6 months - Pipeline
Cost: $US 16,950.00

3. Out of eight projects funded under United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) accumulated interest, one has been completed; five are at various levels of implementation; and two of them are pipeline projects which have been approved by the Project Analysis and Appraisal Committee (PAAC) on 28 September 1990.

Resolution 679 (XXV): Improving information flows in the African region

4. In this resolution, member States hosting subregional development information centres were urged to accelerate the process of their establishment and function and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was strongly urged to ensure the continuation of PADIS technical assistance activities on behalf of member States by implementing its allocation to project RAF/86/053 to permit the continuation of professional and administrative staff through the UNDP Fifth Programming Cycle and the ECA Executive Secretary was requested to explore further ways and means of securing regular budget posts for PADIS. To this end the secretariat would like to report the following:

(a) Thirty-four member States have now designated their national participating centres in the PADIS network. National participating centres have increased their inputs to the information system, these now constitute 50 per cent of the records in the system;

(b) The Government of Zambia has been notable in accelerating the process of the establishment of the ESADIS subregional centre it is hosting in Lusaka, by seconding of staff to operate the system;

(c) Due to the current financial crisis of its Africa Bureau, UNDP has been unable to supplement its allocation to project RAF/86/053 to permit the continuation of professional and administrative staff through the Fifth Cycle. Instead, 1990 savings have been rephrased to cover staff on board for the first six months of 1990. The ECA Executive Secretary has appointed a

committee to examine sources of funding for the second half of the year. This, however, had adverse impact on the post of Chief of PADIS who had been recruited under the project and was supposed to come on board in January 1991. Due to the lack of funds, his recruitment has had to be suspended until more funding is found;

(d) The ECA Executive Secretary has recommended three new regular budget posts for PADIS in 1992-1993, two to strengthen PADIS' electronic data processing function for the secretariat and one in the development issues and policies programme; and

(e) As a result of the office automation programme for ECA approved by the General Assembly in 1990, PADIS has been provided with the necessary computer equipment to ensure its effective functioning.

Resolution 680 (XXV): Future of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP)

5. Operative paragraph 2 of this resolution called upon the United Nations General Assembly, as a matter of urgency, to approve the inclusion of four key posts for IDEP in the United Nations regular budget, namely the Director, the Chief of Administration and Finance, and two senior lecturers, in line with the recommendations of ECOSOC in its resolution 1985/62 of 26 July 1985, to enable IDEP to carry out its functions.

6. The resolution was adopted by consensus at the second regular session of ECOSOC in July 1990, in its resolution 1990/72 entitled "Future funding of IDEP" (See document E/ECA/CM.17/23).

7. In its consideration of the subject at its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly did not approve ECOSOC's request that the four IDEP posts be transferred to the regular budget. However, it authorized a subvention to IDEP from the regular budget for the year 1991 in order to finance the costs of those posts in an amount equivalent to 100 per cent of their costs.

8. In this resolution, the Conference of Ministers also appealed to UNDP to help the Institute to survive its present financial crisis and in particular to quickly set up the evaluation mission announced in October 1989, fully back the training and other activities of the Institute, and continue to support the Institute in 1990 and beyond.

9. UNDP mounted an in-depth evaluation of IDEP in November/December 1990 and, based on its findings and recommendations, UNDP will determine the form and extent of its support in 1991 and beyond.

Resolution 681 (XXV): Future of the African demographic training institutes

10. The resolution exhorted African Governments to provide adequate financial support to the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) in Accra and the Institut de formation démographique (IFORD) in Yaounde in order to enable them to operate properly. Member States were specifically requested to settle their arrears and to pay their annual contributions regularly.

11. The resolution had earlier been submitted to the Conference of Ministers by the sixth meeting of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers held in January 1990 in Addis Ababa.

12. In March 1990, the Executive Secretary of ECA, in his capacity as Chairman of the Governing Councils of IFORD and RIPS which had just met at Yaounde and Accra, sent a circular letter to member States of the two institutions as well as to the Ministers of Planning and Directors of Statistics of the countries concerned. The purpose of the circular was to impress upon member States the financial difficulties of both institutes, to request them to pay in their annual contributions and to propose an installment plan whereby, depending on each case, the arrears could be settled over a period of three to four years. Only Gabon responded favourably to the letter of the Executive Secretary by paying CFAF 17 million to IFORD, thus settling its dues for 1990 and all its arrears.

13. In May 1990, the Executive Secretary of ECA sent a circular letter to the African countries members of the UNDP Governing Council (which was to meet in June 1990) requesting them to impress upon the UNDP Governing Council the financial problems of the two institutions and to draw the attention of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to the need to continue supporting the African demographic training institutes. The circular was followed by a telex from the Executive Secretary of ECA to African members of the UNDP Governing Council, informing them of the adoption by the ECA Conference of Ministers of the resolution on the African demographic training institutes and requesting them to impress upon the UNDP Governing Council the need for UNFPA to maintain its contribution at the same level.

Resolution 683 (XXV): The Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s

14. In this resolution, the Conference of Ministers requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission to take necessary action to assist member States in the implementation of the Plan of Action annexed to the resolution. To that effect, the English and French versions of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s have been printed and sent to all African Governments, drawing their attention particularly to the recommendations which ECA, as the key regional institution for the development and promotion of statistics in Africa, considers as very important:

(a) First, African Governments should provide assistance for establishing a national statistical development fund with contributions from the public as well as the private sectors in each country; and

(b) Second, 18 November should be adopted as African Statistics Day in order to increase public awareness for the role which statistics play in all aspects of social and economic life.

15. A press release concerning the African Statistics Day was prepared by ECA and sent, on 15 November 1990, to all UNDP offices and national statistical offices in the African region for follow-up action with the mass media.

16. An Inter-Agency Meeting on Co-operation for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s was held, at ECA headquarters in Addis Ababa on 18 and 19 December 1990.

17. A consultant was recruited for four months to assist in the preparation of a draft strategy for statistical development in Africa in the 1990s. He was expected to start work in January 1991.

18. An Intergovernmental Working Group on the Implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action is scheduled for 3 to 7 June 1991 in Addis Ababa.

Resolutions 684 (XXV), 685 (XXV), 686 (XXV), 687 (XXV) and 697 (XXV): Women and Development

19. At its sixteenth meeting, the ECA Conference of Ministers adopted five resolutions on the issues of women in development. These resolutions concerned:

(a) The Abuja Declaration on Participatory Development: The Role of Women in Africa in the 1990s [res. 684 (XXV)],

(b) Women and apartheid, [res. 685 (XXV)];

(c) Women in global and regional strategies [res. 686 (XXV)];

(d) Strengthening of ATRCW human resources to enhance its capacity to serve ARCC [res. 689 (XXV)]; and

(e) Improvement of the role of women in the informal sector: Production and management, [res. 697 (XXV)].

20. Out of the five resolutions, four called for specific follow- up action from ECA. The major action requested was wide dissemination of the Abuja Declaration, co-ordination and monitoring of its implementation and instituting mechanisms that would strengthen the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) and sustain its activities in favour of women of the subregion. To this end, the Abuja Declaration was made available in English, French and Arabic to all member States as well as agencies and organizations dealing with women's issues. In addition, advisory services were provided from 16 to 31 October 1990 to Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe, three countries of the Southern Africa subregion. The missions gave an opportunity to discuss the situation of women in the three countries and sensitize leaders on the operationalization of the Abuja Declaration. Some guidance was also given on various types of national and subregional machineries for the advancement of women and their roles in order to enable women to cope with new developments in the subregion. Measures were also suggested for enhancing the leadership capacity of women and their capability to adequately co-ordinate women in development (WID) activities and resources. On the issue of women and regional strategies, the above missions discussed with the Pan-African Women's Organization (PAWO) on regional planning and strategies.

21. Besides the above, other fora were used for dissemination of the conclusions of the Abuja Declaration to donors and development agencies. It is in this context that the secretariat addressed, on 26 September 1990, the EEC/ACP Joint Assembly in Luxembourg on "Women in Development". Again, the secretariat was invited in January 1991 to address the "African-American Conference" held in Cairo, Egypt on "Special needs of women and children". On all these occasions, recommendations of the Abuja Declaration were highlighted.

22. Furthermore, one of the resolutions requested ECA to organize a briefing session on AAF-SAP where experts will consider strategies aimed at minimizing the adverse effects of ongoing structural adjustment programmes on women. Financial constraints did not enable the convening of a meeting. However, a report on the same issue was presented to the ARCC meeting for discussion and will be then distributed to all member States.

23. Finally, the strengthening of the African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW) was considered and hopefully a post of regional advisor for the advancement of women will be created in 1992-1993 in order to assist in ARCC matters and in advising member States in their implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and the Abuja Declaration.

24. The last resolution on the informal sector called for support measures from member States to an ongoing project. To facilitate their efforts, ECA conducted in September/October national seminars in four pilot countries, namely Burkina Faso, Congo, the Gambia and Zambia. The seminars brought together policy-makers, leaders of women's groups and NGOs to develop action guidelines in the areas of policy, training and statistics for the informal sector. Pilot projects were also designed in order to experiment on the guidelines.

Resolution 688 (XXV): Establishment of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the development of nuclear science and technology in Africa

25. In the implementation of this resolution, the following actions have been taken by the secretariat. A project document on launching activities in the field of nuclear science and technology has been prepared and submitted to PAAC. The tenth meeting of PAAC on 2 November 1990 decided to postpone the final decision on the secretariat proposal and explore within the regular budget the possibility of recruiting a consultant. The project, ATF/001/040/B, was rephrased for the biennium 1990-1991 and the unencumbered funds have been reallocated for financing the meeting of high technical group of experts to develop programmes and projects for Technical Adivsory Committee in the first half of 1991.

26. In this resolution, the Conference of Ministers requested the Executive Secretary of ECA, in collaboration with the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and executive heads of other relevant international organizations to provide technical and financial assistance to African programmes and projects capacities for the development of African capabilities in nuclear science and technology.

Resolution 689 (XXV): Strengthening of capacities in Africa for the development and application of science and technology in the 1990s

27. The Conference of Ministers in this resolution requested that the human and financial resources of the science and technology programme at the ECA secretariat should be increased to enable the programme to deal effectively with its increasing responsibilities in the region.

28. The secretariat completed a study on "Endogenous capacity building in science and technology in the African region" which will be presented to the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development (IGCESTD) at its next meeting in November 1991. In compliance with the decision of the IGCESTED and its subregional Working Groups, the secretariat has contacted various United Nations and donor organizations with a view to securing funding for the subregional projects in science and technology prepared by the Working Groups.

Resolution 690 (XXV): Making the African Centre of meteorological applications for development operational

29. This resolution requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in close collaboration with the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, to continue to mobilize financial and technical support of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, bilateral and multilateral donors as well as other financial institutions.

30. In implementing this resolution, the secretariats of the two organizations have continued to campaign to maintain the active support of the donor community. Member States have also began paying their contributions as follows: (a) Cameroon (two years) $US 65,200; (b) Ethiopia (one year) $US 21,100; (c) Madagascar (one year) $US 13,900); (d) Malawi (one year) $US 6,500; (e) Niger (one year) $US 8,200; and (f) Senegal (three years) $42,200.

31. Interviews have been held and the Director-General for the Centre has been recruited. This will enhance the activities for the mobilization of resources and the operationalization of the Centre.

Resolution 691 (XXV): The African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation

32. Having adopted the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation, the ECA Conference of Ministers further recommended in resolution 691 (XXV) that the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania should submit it to the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly and the twenty-sixth session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU. The Conference of Ministers also requested the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary-General of the OAU to disseminate the Charter widely and to set up a mechanism for implementing and monitoring the follow-up activities contained in the Charter at subregional and regional levels and submit regular annual reports to the ECA Conference of Ministers and the OAU thereon.

33. H.E. Ali Hassan Mwinyi, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, formally presented the Charter to the July 1990 Summit of the OAU as a result of which the Charter, which had been adopted by the OAU Council of Ministers in resolution CM/RES/1296(L.II), was subsequently endorsed by the Summit. The resolution adopted the Charter as a "statement of the strategy that should be incorporated in development policies adopted by African Governments with a view to promoting popular participation in development and by encouraging people and their organizations to undertake self-reliant development initiatives". The resolution further requested the Secretary-General of the OAU and Executive Secretary of ECA to set up a mechanism for implementing and monitoring the follow-up activities.

34. Similarly, the General Assembly in resolution 45/178C took note with appreciation of the Charter, commended the collective commitment of African peoples and Governments to promote economic recovery and development in Africa through, inter alia, popular participation for development and transformation and called upon the international community to increase support to Africa's efforts in bringing about sustained and sustainable growth and development taking into account, inter alia, the objectives of the Charter.

35. ECA disseminated the Charter widely both within and outside Africa and has also taken steps to establish a focal point for promoting popular participation in development at ECA to follow-up on the implementation of the Charter. Two meetings by way of follow-up to the Arusha Conference have been organized by ECA: A Round-table on the role of NGOs and the informal sector in the development process in Africa was held in Abuja in December 1990 and a workshop on AAF-SAP and the Charter for the benefit of African trade union leaders is scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa in March 1991.

36. Steps are also being taken to set up in co-operation with the OAU, a Regional Advisory Group, composed of representatives of African Governments and women, trade unions, youth, African NGOs and grass-roots organizations, to oversee and follow-up on the implementation of the Charter.

Resolution 692 (XXV) Hydrographic surveying and nautical charting services

37. The resolution, in its operative paragraph 2, urges ECA, in conjunction with appropriate African specialized institutions and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), to prepare a project that will provide existing regional centres with the capabilities for the maintenance of hydrographic equipment and for training in nautical cartography. As follow-up actions, the secretariat made further contacts with the International Hydrographic Bureau and the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (RCSSMRS) at Nairobi, and together prepared a project proposal framework (PPF). The project was used in mobilizing funds not only from UNDP but also other donor agencies and governments with the necessary experience and which are prepared to enter into technical co-operation agreement in support of the project.

38. IHO is ready to provide regional advisors as soon as funds for the project are obtained. On its part, RCSSMRS is equally ready to host the project and serve as a focal point in developing the project.

Resolution 693 (XXV): Proposal for interregional co-operation in the area of trade facilitation, in particular the phased application of EDIFACT whenever appropriate

39. Operative paragraph 5 of the resolution on the "Proposal for interregional co-operation in the area of trade facilitation, in particular the phased application of EDIFACT whenever appropriate" requested the Executive Secretary to report to the twenty-sixth session of the Commission on the implementation of this resolution.

40. Since the adoption of resolution 693(XXV) by the Twenty-fifth session of the Commission/Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers, the matter was brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council in July 1990. By ECOSOC Resolution 1990/74: Proposal for interregional co-operation in the area of trade facilitation, and in particular the phased application of the Rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (EDIFACT), whenever appropriate, the Council not only endorsed the resolution but also supported the implementation by participating African States of the project proposal and invited the other regional commissions (ECE, ESCWA, ESCAP and ECLAC) to consider further Council resolution 1989/118 relating to the elaboration of a joint project proposal.

41. As part and parcel of these activities, the secretariat intensified its efforts of assisting Africa members States in their trade facilitation efforts at national, subregional (particularly in

collaboration with the MULPOCs and secretariats of African subregional economic groupings) and interregional levels through undertaking studies, organizing seminars, workshops, meetings and conferences as well as technical backstopping African delegations with a view to enabling them exchange ideas and adopt certain strategies.

42. With the assistance of the secretariat, the Special Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade adopted in December 1990, "Strategies for Revitalization, Recovery and Growth of Africa's Trade in the 1990s and Beyond" (doc. E/ECA/Trade/89/25/Rev.5) and declared the 1990s, the "Trade Development Decade for Africa". The Strategies address most major constraints that inhibit trade from being an engine of economic recover, growth and development. Hence, action by African States is called for at all levels and stages.

43. In close collaboration with other secretariats, work is in process in connection with "trade-related human resources development" because of the urgent need for improving skills and competence for the foreign trade sector (both intra-regional and international) at all levels.

Resolution 694 (XXV): Co-operation in fisheries in Africa

44. Since the adoption by the twenty-fifth session of the Commission/sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of resolution 694 (XXV) entitled "Co-operation in fisheries in Africa", the items it raised have been taken up again by several United Nations resolutions directly drawn from it (see document E/ECA/CM.7/23).

45. Resolution 694 (XXV) particularly urged United Nations Agencies, notably UNDP, FAO, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and ECA, to support the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Co-operation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean, held in Rabat, Morocco, from 30 March to 1 April 1989.

46. These recommendations included, among other matters, the creation of a regional maritime data bank.

47. The meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Conference, also held in Rabat, from 29 to 31 May 1990, decided that ECA jointly with the United Nations Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (OALOS), would be the interlocutor of the Conference for this project.

48. A first project profile has been drawn up by the secretariat and then, jointly re-written, in the framework of a mission to OALOS, in New York, from 25 October to 7 November 1990. It has afterwards been revised again during a mission to FAO headquarters in Rome, from 17 to 26 November 1990. The final project document is now under finalization and will shortly be forwarded to the secretariat of the Conference at Rabat.

Resolution 696 (XXV) "Priority Africa" Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

49. In this resolution, the Conference of Ministers requested the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary-General of the OAU to co-operate within the Joint ECA/UNESCO and OAU/UNESCO concertation machinery in the implementation of the programme and the mobilization of the resources required.

50. In that spirit of furthering collaboration between ECA and UNESCO, the ECA secretariat participated in a regional expert group meeting on the assessment of education/research in basic sciences and science and technology in Africa which was held at UNESCO/ROSTA, Nairobi, from 24 to 26 September 1990. The meeting identified priority areas in basic sciences which would assist United Nations Environment Programme in reviewing inter-country project in this area for its fifth programming cycle.

51. In pursuance of operative paragraph 3 and 4 of this resolution, the ECA participated in the sixth ECA/UNESCO joint concertation meeting which was organized by UNESCO in Dakar on 27 and 28 November 1990. ECA was represented by senior officials from several Divisions of the secretariat. The meeting reviewed progress in the implementation of activities in science and technology, information and documentation, human resources development where the two organizations collaborated and considered measures for intensifying and expanding the scope of such collaboration. In this regard, the meeting considered the proposals contained in the UNESCO "Priority Africa" programme which offers a fresh orientation for further collaboration in building the capacity of the African countries to solve their problems. The meeting, which took place more than five years after the last meeting hosted by ECA, provided a fresh opportunity for the two organizations to come to practical grips with issues in which they would together assist African member States.

Resolution 698 (XXV): The Final Review and Appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD)

52. Following the adoption of resolution 698 (XXV) by the ECA Conference of Ministers, the decisions and recommendations contained therein were subsequently endorsed by ECOSOC through resolution E/1990/75 of 27 July 1990. Responding favourably to the recommendations of the ECA Conference of Ministers and ECOSOC, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/178A of 19 December 1990 in which it decided to establish an Ad hoc Committee of the Whole of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly for the purpose of proposing, for the forty-sixth session, the final review and appraisal of the implementation of UN-PAAERD and proposing concrete measures and recommendations for sustained and sustainable growth and development in Africa beyond 1991. The General Assembly also decided that the Ad hoc Committee of the Whole should meet for 10 working days in September 1991 and that its bureau should be constituted at the highest possible level and be composed of a chairman, three vice-chairmen and a rapporteur. An organizational session of the Committee, not exceeding two days, should be called in April 1991 to adopt arrangements for its work.

53. The resolution further urged member States and organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to be represented at the highest possible level and to participate actively in the work of the Ad hoc Committee; called upon the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to provide adequate resources for the full implementation of the UN-PAAERD, and requested the Secretary-General to continue to ensure close cooperation and co-ordination with the Secretary-General of the OAU concerning the contributions of organizations of the United Nations system for the preparation of the final review and appraisal of the programme. As has been the practice hitherto, the draft report of the Secretary-General on the final review and implementation of the programme will be prepared by the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force and Steering Committee on the UN-PAAERD.

54. In compliance with other decisions of the ECA Conference of Ministers as contained in resolution 698 (XXV), ECA mounted special multisectoral missions to its member States to collect up-to-date data on the implementation of the programme. On the basis of these missions in which various agencies of the United Nations system participated, namely FAO, WFP, UNDP, IFAD, UNESCO and the World Bank, a document assessing the implementation of the programme has been prepared for consideration by the Intergovernmental Expert Group on the final review and appraisal of the UN-PAAERD. The results of the missions have also been used in the preparation of the final report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the UN-PAAERD. Financial resources for mounting the missions were provided by the General Assembly.

Resolution 699 (XXV): Strengthening the African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research (AIHTTR)

55. Over 10 years after its establishment in 1980, a glaring and sad fact which all concerned must reckon with is that AIHTTR has to date not taken off. During the twenty-fifth session of the Commission/sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers which took place in Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, a report on the status and prospects of AIHTTR was presented and decisions were taken by the Conference regarding ways and means of revamping the Institute.

56. Having recognized that the Institute had been unable to take off the ground due to the general lack of effective support from African Governments and stagnation in the growth of membership, the meeting recommended in resolution 699 (XXV) that:

(a) All African Governments that had not so far subscribed to the constitution of the Institute do so as a matter of top priority;

(b) Member States of the Institute should pay their contributions to the budget of the Institute as expeditiously as possible;

(c) Member States of the Institute still in arrears to pay up their accumulated arrears in order to provide the finances necessary to allow the Institute to function;

(d) UNDP should continue rendering its support to the Institute; and

(e) The Executive Secretary of ECA should continue his efforts to mobilize extrabudgetary resources through technical assistance programmes to supplement the Institute's regular budgetary resources.

57. It is regrettable that since the meeting of the Conference of Ministers in Tripoli, none of the member States of the Institute, who are in arrears with the Institute, has paid up the accumulated arrears. Although the Officer-in-Charge of the Institute has recently mounted missions to 13 African countries, of which nine were member States, and received encouraging responses with regard to payment of future contributions, no new contributions have been received to date.

58. The Institute has been unable to register new members since 1986. Membership has stagnated at 15 countries since then.

59. There is a distinct possibility that the UNDP project at the Institute would soon close. It is therefore evident that the Institute's future is bleak. Thus unless member States demonstrate clear interest in the Institute, its continued existence remains in great jeopardy.

Resolution 700 (XXV): The proposed establishment of the African Economic Community

60. Actions required in this resolution are reported in document E/ECA/CM.17/12.

Resolution 702 (XXV): Transforming and strengthening the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) of the Economic Commission for Africa

61. The strengthening of the MULPOCs being the thrust of resolution 702 (XXV), the secretariat took action towards this objective by submitting to ECOSOC the financial implications for the resolutions which can be summarized as in tables 1 and 2.

62. The report of the Review Team, endorsed by the ECA Conference of Ministers, recommended the strengthening of the MULPOCs over a period of time in order to allow flexibility in securing resources. For the biennium 1992-1993, the proposed additional staffing is as follows:

Table 1. Staffing resources

Category/Level	Number of posts
P5	2
P4	2
P3	2
P2	2
	2
Total professional posts	8
GS	14
Grand total	22

Breakdown of requirements:

Two P5: One for the Niamey MULPOC who should be an Agronomist, one for the Yaounde MULPOC who should be a Transport Economist;

Two P4: One for the Lusaka MULPOC who should be a Mining Engineer, one for the Tangier MULPOC who should be an Agronomist;

Two P3: One for the Gisenyi MULPOC who should be an Agronomist, one for the Tangier MULPOC who should be an Environmental Expert on marine life;

Two P2: One for the Gisenyi MULPOC who should be an Expert in Women in Development, one for the Yaounde MULPOC who shall be an Agronomist.

63. The proposed level of recruitment depends on the importance of the sector in each subregion and on the felt need to balance as much as possible the expertise in all the MULPOCs. This latter

preoccupation made it necessary to take into account the level of the current staffing of the MULPOCs.

64. As regards non-staffing resources, the following was proposed:

Table 2. Non-staffing resources

Description	Gisenyi	West Africa	North Africa	Eastern and Central Africa	Southern Africa	Total
Established posts	(To be computed on the basis of current standard)					
Temporary assistance for meetings		78,200	78,200	-	78,200	234,000
General temporary assistance	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	90,000
Consultancy and ad hoc experts	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	225,000
Overtime	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Common staff costs	(To be computed on the basis of current standard)					
Travel	30,000	80,000	56,000	72,000	100,000	338,000
Contractual services	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	12,000	52,000
Operating expenses	50,000	70,000	62,500	75,500	64,500	323,000
Acquisition of equipment	75,000	153,000	77,000	141,000	156,000	603,000
Total	229,000	455,700	347,000	362,500	475,000	1,070,600

65. Further to the relevant Memorandum of the ECA Conference of Ministers, which as it will be recalled was adopted last year in Tripoli, the Economic and Social Council by its resolution 1990/76 agreed with the recommendations of the Commission, and through operative paragraph 6 of its resolution urged the General Assembly to provide the MULPOCs with additional resources "to enable them to respond more effectively to multinational and multisectoral programming requirements based on priorities identified by member States, and to provide immediately a minimum core of such resources".

66. Finally, the Secretary-General, pursuant to the provisions of resolution 43/216 of the General Assembly, addressed to the latter a report (A/C.5/57) on the matter, endorsing the recommendations of the ECA Conference of Ministers and ECOSOC.

67. During consideration of the report during the fifth Committee session of the General Assembly, the Chairman of ACABQ said that the advisory committee's overall assessment of the report was that the purpose of the MULPOCs was still valid and that the staff resources financed by both the regular and extrabudgetary resources for the current biennium 1990-1991 totalled 63 posts. As for the 1992-1993 biennium for the additional 18 posts needed, the Secretary-General should be requested to present a report to the fourty-sixth session of the General Assembly (see doc. E/ECA/CM.17/23).

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-sixth session of the Commission/ seventeenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
9 to 13 May 1991

FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION/SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

91-467

FOLLOW UP ACTIONS ON RESOLUTION 704 (XXV) - EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO NAMIBIA

1. In resolution 704 (XXV) of 19 May 1990, the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa specifically mandated the Executive Secretary of ECA "to mount, within the limits of available resources, an emergency programmes of assistance to Namibia". The following assistance was provided by the Secretariat in various areas:

A. Contribution to the preparation of a Provisional Investment Programme for Namibia

2. Prior to the independence of Namibia and consequently to the adoption of resolution 704(XXV), the Economic Commission for Africa was requested by the Government - elect of Namibia, through the UNDP Office in Windhoek, to contribute to the preparation of a Provisional Investment Programme for Namibia. The assistance provided by ECA consisted of the assignment of a senior economist for nine weeks and Public Administration Officer for four weeks. Both staff provided substantive inputs in:

(a) The identification of the priority areas of agriculture, education, health and housing;

(b) The drafting of the general policy statement of the Government; and

(c) The drafting of the provisional investment programme including the identification and cost estimate of projects in the priority areas and the external assistance needs for both capital and recurrent expenditures for the period 1990-1992.

3. The Executive Secretary of ECA attended personally the Pledging Conference convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 21-22 June 1990 at United Nations headquarters in New York. The Pledging Conference received in the form of pledges an estimated $US 200 million for 1990 and $US 150 million for each of the fiscal years 1991 and 1992.

B. Training workshop on agricultural restructuring

4. In August 1990, the ECA secretariat was requested to provide a resource person for a workshop organized by the Association of Agricultural Economist of Namibia. In view of that a document was prepared by that resource person of ECA on "An Alternative Strategy to Structural Adjustment in African Agriculture: Some Lessons for Namibia" which was instrumental in the discussions at the Workshop. The Workshop enabled agricultural administrators in Namibia to assess ways of optimizing agricultural development among the various countries of Southern Africa with special reference to agricultural development in independent Namibia.

C. Advisory services in statistics

5. Following the adoption of resolution 704 (XXV), the ECA Demography Statistics Adviser participated in a UNFPA-sponsored Needs Assessment/Pre-programme Development Mission to Namibia. Specifically, the Adviser assisted in the assessment of the Government's needs in the area of population data collection and the integration of population factors into development planning. The Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) for the Namibia population census project has since then visited ECA to hold technical discussions in that regard.

D. Assistance to Namibian Women

6. In October 1990, the ECA secretariat fielded an assistance mission to Namibian women to collect data on the status of women, hold consultations with women organizations, provide information on the Abuja Declaration on the Role of Women in Africa in the 1990s, and provide guidelines on the incorporation of women's concerns in National Development Plans. The mission held working sessions with the National Planning Commission, the Women's Desk in the President's Office, SWAPO Women's Council, the Legal Assistance Centre and other groups. Following the discussions, the mission formulated recommendations in the fields of national policy on women in development, human and financial resources, information and data on women, women and law, etc.